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Centre extends last date for Aadhaar-PAN linking to June 30



New Delhi, Mar 31: PAN, Aadhaar The earlier deadline for linking PAN with Aadhaar was March 31. The central government on Wednesday extended the deadline for linking Aadhaar number with permanent account number (PAN) to June 30, 2021. The earlier deadline was March 31. "Central Government extends the last date for linking of Aadhaar number with PAN from 31st March, 2021 to 30th June, 2021, in view of the difficulties arising out of the COVID-19 pandemic," the Income Tax department said in a tweet. Central Government extends the last date for linking of Aadhaar number with PAN from 31st March,

2021 to 30th June, 2021, in view of the difficulties arising out of the COVID-19 pandemic. (1/2) @nsitharamanoffc @Anurag_Office@FinMinIndia—Income Tax India (@IncomeTaxIndia) March 31, 2021 The government had said those who miss the deadline will be liable to pay a penalty of up to Rs 1,000 and their PAN will become invalid. The date for issue of notice under Section 148 of Income Tax Act, 1961, passing of consequential order for direction issued by the Dispute Resolution Panel (DRP) and processing of equalisation levy statements has also been extended to 30th April, 2021. The government

passed the Finance Bill 2021 in the Lok Sabha last week where it inserted a new section 234H under which a person shall be liable to pay a late fee of up to Rs 1,000 in case of non-linking of their PAN with Aadhaar. "234H. Without prejudice to the provisions of this Act, where a person is required to intimate his Aadhaar number under sub-section (2) of section 139AA and such person fails to do so on or before such date, as may be prescribed, he shall be liable to such fee, as may be prescribed, not exceeding one thousand rupees, at the time of making intimation under sub-section (2) of section 139AA after the said date," the bill said.

Odisha Appropriation Bill 2021 Adopted

Bhubaneswar, Mar 31: The Odisha Appropriation Bill 2021 was introduced in the Odisha Legislative Assembly by Finance Department Minister Niranjan Pujari on Wednesday. The Bill was adopted in the House today evening. For the financial year 2021-22, towards welfare programmes and administrative ex-



penses the State Government estimates to spend Rs 1,75,890.23 crore, the 2021 Appropriation Bill stated. After a detailed discussion, the Bill was adopted by the House. However, the Opposition staged a walkout and Speaker Surjya Narayan Patro adjourned the House till 10:30 am on April 3.

Zero School Dropout Rate In Khordha & Sambalpur, Highest In Nabarangpur



Bhubaneswar, Mar 31: School dropout rate has been 1.53% and 4.75% respectively in primary and upper primary schools in Odisha in the year 2019-20, informed School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash in the State Assembly today. Replying to a question by BJP member Mukesh

Mahaling, Dash said that Nabarangpur district had the highest percentage of dropout of 13.35 in upper primary school in the year 2019-20. Malkangiri district ranked second with a dropout percentage of 13.00 and Gajapati district ranked third with 9.38 in upper primary schools in 2019-20, he

DISTRICT NAME	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
	PR	UPPR								
ANGUL	1.57	3.24	2.82	4.68	6.38	7.82	7.31	4.25	8.96	7.65
BALASOR	0.06	0.08	0.16	0.36	0.25	0.80	0.63	3.71	2.01	2.20
BARHAR	3.08	6.64	2.67	2.82	2.81	2.61	3.11	5.88	1.86	3.28
BHADRAK	3.89	3.31	3.24	3.51	6.90	3.99	1.39	0.73	6.82	4.32
BOLANGIR	1.83	5.57	3.45	3.88	1.98	3.68	6.53	9.23	8.80	0.31
Boudh	2.66	2.58	2.24	2.46	1.18	3.85	1.98	2.84	2.07	2.99
CUTTACK	0.08	0.08	1.82	3.71	5.53	3.73	7.78	7.34	0.00	5.94
DEOGARH	6.51	3.88	3.81	2.97	4.66	3.41	3.27	1.12	1.16	4.23
DHANSKANAL	1.62	1.71	2.72	2.81	3.38	1.51	1.84	2.78	6.46	4.07
KADAPATI	7.03	6.88	9.09	7.71	9.84	8.81	4.39	5.97	5.28	5.35
KANTAM	2.88	5.64	2.89	4.38	3.88	5.14	4.31	3.81	8.08	3.87
JAGATSINGHPUR	0.88	0.36	3.31	1.34	4.91	3.39	8.83	6.74	1.23	2.86
JAJPUR	1.39	1.56	3.76	3.69	8.99	3.75	6.74	12.83	0.00	0.23
JHARSUGUDA	3.48	3.64	3.76	2.87	3.47	4.51	2.64	12.83	0.27	4.12
KALAHANDI	6.68	6.52	3.33	7.84	7.88	7.34	8.44	11.34	6.84	8.11
KANDHAMAL	6.18	7.42	3.94	6.84	10.52	9.87	6.76	6.97	5.81	8.61
KENDRAPADA	1.13	2.34	2.92	2.44	3.55	4.21	8.91	10.97	8.89	8.00
KONARH	4.76	1.85	8.62	3.43	7.96	4.72	6.26	9.41	2.13	3.84
KORAPADA	0.66	2.56	0.42	4.88	1.81	3.48	8.15	7.52	0.00	8.86
KORAPUT	10.28	13.87	8.18	13.07	8.50	8.06	6.27	8.48	2.89	8.83
MALKANGIRI	9.82	12.51	8.71	13.37	13.68	11.88	7.21	13.78	2.22	13.68
MAYURBHANJ	4.38	3.23	5.42	5.06	5.27	5.92	5.75	5.77	3.17	8.11
NABARANGPUR	5.37	13.33	4.57	11.64	5.93	13.61	5.18	11.20	3.21	13.31
NAYAGARH	8.99	3.09	2.49	5.17	3.42	3.35	2.89	1.21	8.60	3.85
NIJAGUDA	1.62	5.25	0.81	4.64	1.79	7.32	2.40	1.75	3.00	7.49
PURI	8.90	2.22	2.86	3.45	8.45	4.41	2.81	4.34	0.59	2.92
RAYAGUDA	18.36	9.39	9.84	10.83	19.95	11.37	11.87	17.39	4.36	7.78
SAMBALPUR	1.84	4.44	8.65	4.89	3.83	4.36	8.36	8.21	0.60	0.60
SINDEHPUR	2.28	3.56	8.23	2.40	1.32	1.15	4.17	4.81	0.16	0.16
SINHGARH	3.85	6.87	5.44	3.49	3.95	4.42	3.48	8.84	2.71	6.49
TOTAL	2.82	3.87	4.38	5.18	5.81	5.45	5.42	6.93	1.53	6.78

added. Besides, Khordha and Sambalpur districts had zero dropout percentage in both primary and upper primary schools in the year 2019-20, the Minister said. Mid-day meals, uniforms, shoes, umbrellas, and bicycles are being provided by the government apart from several other measures to check the dropout rate in schools, the Minister said. The Minister furnished a district-wise break-up of dropout percentage from 2015-16 to 2019-20 based on data extracted from Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE).

Nikunja Bihari Dhal Appointed As Gridco Chairman

Bhubaneswar, Mar 31: The Odisha government today posted 1993 batch IAS Nikunja Bihari Dhal as Chairman of Gridco, Bhubaneswar and Chairman of OPTCL, Bhubaneswar. This will be Dhal's additional responsibilities apart from working as the Principal Secretary of Energy Department, stated a notification issued by the General Administration and Public Grievance



department. The notification further stated 1998 batch IAS Suresh Kumar Vashishta will be in-charge of the office of Secretary of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment following his return from

election duty. Currently Suresh Kumar is working as Special Secretary of Agriculture and Farmer's Empowerment department. 1987 batch IAS Raj Kumar Sharma will remain in additional charge of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Department till Suresh Kumar returns from election duty, the notification added. Raj Kumar is working at present as Agriculture Production Commissioner, Odisha.

New Unit Of Talcher Thermal Power Station To Come Up Soon

Bhubaneswar, Mar 31: A new unit of the Talcher Thermal Power Station (TTPS) will come up soon. This was informed by Odisha Chief Secretary SC Mohapatra after a virtual meeting with National Thermal Power Station (NTPC) Chairman Gurudeep Singh here. The Chief Secretary further stated there will be another meeting between officials of the Energy Department, Gridco and NTPC to chalk out plans



for the establishment of the second unit of TTPS. As there are some misconceptions among locals over the project, the State government will also discuss with the NTPC officials to find out ways to resolve the issue. He assured complete support of the government to ensure speedy execution of the project.

Ipsita From Odisha Wins Mrs Femina Personality Title

Bhubaneswar, Mar 31: Ipsita Priyadarsini from Odisha won Mrs Femina personality title at Mrs Femina competition held online on Tuesday. She confirmed it on Facebook. Ipsita of Cuttack city was selected to represent Odisha at Mrs Femina 2021, a first-of-its-kind virtual talent organised by Worldwide Media Private Limited. She was competing with



19 other contestants to move to the Top 10 of the beauty pageant. The KIIT alumna is a software engineer by profession. She had participated in many beauty pageants in the past. She was the second runner up in Supermodel India-2019. She had won Miss Ethnic Odisha-2015 title. Besides, she was among the top 5 contestants in Zee TV Miss Ethnic India-2015.

Centre Objects To Co-Branding Of PMAY Houses With Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana Logo

Bhubaneswar, Mar 31: The Central Government has asked the Odisha Government not to co-brand Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) houses with the logo of Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana (BPGY). Union Rural Development Department Secretary Nagendra Nath Sinha has written to Odisha Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra in this regard. "I wish to reiterate here that the scheme PMAY-G has

been approved by the Union Cabinet as a centrally sponsored scheme. It is to be implemented in its original form and under the name of PMAY-G. The scheme is to be implemented as such and under the agreed funding pattern, and no other name can be appended. In view of the same, and as informed earlier that the Ministry had conveyed to the States/UTs in the past to use only the official logo of PMAY-G," wrote Sinha



in the letter. "The contribution of minimum State share from state resources is a commitment by the State Government for implementation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme and it does not confer the rights to the State Government for use of any other logo other than PMAY-G. This will also lead to misinterpretation of the scheme among the PMAY-G beneficiaries about the benefits of the scheme," said Sinha. "In view of the above, the use of a state scheme, i.e., BPGY logo is not permissible under the provisions of the PMAY-G. I would, therefore, once again request you to use official logo of the PMAY-only," he concluded. Pradipta Kumar Naik, Leader Of Opposition in the Odisha Legislative Assembly, today raised the matter in the House. Following ruckus by the BJP members over the issue, the House was adjourned till 11.30 AM.

Punjab to have its own Enforcement Directorate to check illegal mining



Chandigarh, Mar 31: A month after Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh announced the establishment of an Enforcement Directorate (ED) to check illegal mining in Punjab, the Cabinet on Wednesday approved the move. The ED, to be headed by a senior police officer not below the rank of deputy inspector general of police (DIG), will be set up in the mining and geology wing of the water resources department. It will also help ramp up the state's revenues by curbing the menace of illegal mining. A government statement said the ED would help in checking and stopping unauthorised movement of minor minerals within the state and at the interstate borders of Punjab, in conjunction with the officials of the mining depart-

ment. It will also facilitate prosecution of those indulging in illegal mining under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. Working closely with the mining wing of the water resources department, the ED will also ensure that those involved in sand and gravel business do not overcharge on the sale price ceiling prescribed in the mining policy. The ED will have the mandate to develop strategies, measures and methods to effectively achieve these objectives in coordination with the director mining, chief engineers dealing with mining and district level illegal mining enforcement committees under the deputy commissioners. It will also develop actionable intelligence for the purpose and coordinate with agencies

of the neighbouring states dealing with the issue of illegal mining. The ED would be headed by a senior police officer not below the rank of a DIG and would be assisted by 3 SP-level officers in the head office. Each of the 7 mining blocks (number may vary as per government policy) would be headed by an officer not below the rank of a DSP, with 21 inspectors/sub-inspectors at the district level (3 per DSP) and 175 head constables/constables under them. This deployment may be altered/modified from time to time, keeping in view the functional requirements of the ED. The police personnel in ED would be provided salary, equipment, arms, by the police department. Any special equipment, if required, would be provided from the District Mineral Foundation Funds. In addition to the registration and investigation of mining related cases by various district police chiefs (CPS & SSPs) as at present, ED would also register and inves-

tigate cases in coordination with XENs, SDOs, mining officers, under the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, orders of the Supreme Court and National Green Tribunal guidelines. It will present final reports (challans) thereof to the respective courts. Investigation of every case would be completed in a time-bound manner. In this endeavour, districts Mohali, Ropar, Hoshiarpur, Pathankot, Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Ludhiana, Nawanshahr, Jalandhar, Ferozepur, Sangrur and Bathinda would be given greater attention to ensure effective legitimate mining operations. The deputy commissioners and district police chiefs (CPS & SSPs) will be required to extend all possible assistance to officers of the ED as and when requested. 'District Level Illegal Mining Enforcement Committees', under the deputy commissioners, would also be constituted with representatives from among the civil magistracy, district police and

the mining department, in the concerned districts, to bring in the required synergy and coordination in operations to be conducted against illegal mining. The ED would coordinate with these committees and work under overall supervision and control of principal secretary, water resources, and the director mining, and furnish a fortnightly progress report to the water resources minister, DGP, principal secretary (water resources and director mining). The mining and geology department was recently subsumed in the water resources department. Subsequently, the department has taken several steps to check illegal mining of sand and gravel efficaciously. Under its new policy on mining, the water resources department has been able to increase the revenue from mining almost 7-8 times. Large-scale police action, seizure of mining equipment and machinery, and imposition of heavy penalties have helped in achieving this goal.

Cotton and sugar sectors welcome Pakistan's decision to allow imports from India



these countries. Pakistani textile manufacturers have been demanding that imports from India be allowed, as it would be a cheaper option for them. Arvind Jain, vice-president of Khandesh Gin/Press owners and Traders Welfare Association, said if the Indian government allows exports, they can export around 10 lakh bales of cotton to Pakistan in the next three months. "Our produce can reach Pakistan within three days. We also have the cost advantage as Indian candy (376 kg of ginned pressed cotton) is at present retailing at Rs 46,000 as against the

prevalent price of Rs 52,000-55,000 price in international markets," he said. Pakistan normally imports 4-5 lakh bales from India, but a drought and attack of locusts in the neighbouring country has necessitated more imports. Pradeep Jain, founder-president of the Association, pointed out that India has till date exported 40 lakh bales and can end up exporting 60 lakh bales for the whole season. "Ginners from Maharashtra are also planning to directly export from here," he said. The sugar sector has also welcomed the news of Pakistan allowing sugar imports from India. binash

Verma, director general of Indian Sugar Mills Association, said Indian millers have so far inked export orders of 45 lakh tonnes of the target of 60 lakh tonnes. Most of the sugar produced in India has gone to markets in Indonesia, Middle East, East Africa, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. In case the Pakistan market is made available, India can easily fulfil its export target for the current year also. If India fulfils its sugar export target, the country can end up with an opening stock of 90 lakh tonnes, which will not weigh down the economics of the sector.

Sharad Pawar undergoes surgery for stone removal, recovering well



Mumbai, Mar 31: NCP chief Sharad Pawar has undergone emergency surgery for the removal of a stone from his bile duct and his condition is improving. State Health Minister Rajesh Tope confirmed that Pawar is doing well. Pawar, 80, was admitted to the Breach Candy Hospital on Tuesday after he experienced abdominal pain. He underwent the endoscopy at around 10 pm, the doctor said. Sharing a picture of Pawar, NCP leader Supriya Sule on Twitter wrote: "Thanking all the Doctors, Nurses and Entire Team Breach

Candy Hospital. Hon. Pawar Saheb is doing what he loves the most reading his Morning Newspapers!" "A surgery was necessitated on him following some complications. We will decide on surgery on the gallbladder later. Currently, Pawar is under observation. He is doing well," Dr Amit Maydeo said. He said once Pawar starts feeling better, they may take the next step of removal of the gall bladder. Taking to Twitter, NCP's national spokesperson and Maharashtra Minority Development Minister Nawab Malik

said Pawar was taken to Breach Candy Hospital on Sunday night after complaining of pain in his abdomen. The doctors diagnosed it as a problem of stone in the gallbladder, and Pawar subsequently returned home. Pawar subsequently tweeted about those who had enquired about his health, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan, Lata Mangeshkar and MNS chief Raj Thackeray, and thanked them.

NIA court jails Pakistani LeT terrorist for 10 yrs for conspiring to attack India

New Delhi, Mar 31: The case, registered in July 2016, pertains to a larger conspiracy hatched by the LeT, a proscribed terrorist organisation based in Pakistan, to commit terror attacks in India, according to the NIA official. A special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court in New Delhi has sentenced a Pakistani Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist to 10 years' imprisonment for conspiring to carry out terrorist attacks at different places in India, including Delhi, after crossing over to Jammu and Kashmir following instructions from his handlers across the border, an official said on March 31. Bahadur Ali, the Pakistani LeT terrorist, was convicted by the Special Judge for NIA cases in Patiala House Court on Friday under sections of the

IPC, the UA(P) Act, the Arms Act, the Explosives Act, the Explosive Substances Act, the Foreigners Act and the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act. The court sentenced him to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment and also imposed a fine. The case, registered in July 2016, pertains to a larger conspiracy hatched by the LeT, a proscribed terrorist organisation based in Pakistan, to commit terror attacks in India, according to the NIA official. As part of the conspiracy, Ali along with his two associates, Abu Saad and Abu Darda, all trained terrorists of the LeT, had illegally infiltrated into Jammu and Kashmir with the intention to carry out terrorist attacks at different places in India, including Delhi, according to instructions by their LeT han-

dlers based in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), the official said. Ali was arrested from Kupwara and a large number of arms such as AK-47

investigation, Ali revealed details about recruitment, various LeT training camps, training to terrorists for handling weapons, explosives and modus operandi for

Pakistani LeT terrorists, Saad and Darda, were killed in an encounter in February 2017 in Kupwara. During investigation, two associates/supporters of Ali, Zahoor



rifle, Under Barrel Grenade Launcher (UBGL), ammunition, hand grenades, UBGL shells, military map, wireless set, GPS, compass, Indian currency, Fake Indian Currency Notes were seized from him, he said. Dur-

motivating newly-recruited cadres for Jihad and terror acts in India by LeT leaders and also the details of LeT launching pads in PoK, the NIA official said. The NIA had filed a chargesheet against Ali in January, 2017. Later, two other

Ahmad Peer and Nazir Ahmad Peer, both residents of Jammu and Kashmir, were also arrested, the NIA official said, adding that further trial in the case against other chargesheeted accused was underway.

Supreme Court-appointed panel on farm laws submits report



New Delhi, March 31: The Supreme Court-appointed committee to study the three new controversial agricultural laws has submitted its

report to the apex court on March 19 in a sealed cover, one of its members said on Wednesday. Farmers have been protesting seeking repeal

of the three contentious farm laws on the borders of New Delhi for the last five months now. The Supreme Court had, on January 11, stayed the implementation of the three laws till further orders and appointed a four-member panel to resolve the impasse. The committee was given two months to study the laws and consult all stakeholders.

NIA raids activists in Andhra, Telangana

New Delhi, Mar 31: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday conducted raids at the premises of several Adivasi, Dalit and human rights activists in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana for their alleged links with Maoists, people familiar with the development said. Among those being raided till late night include Chilika Chandrasekhar (general secretary of Andhra Pradesh Civil Liberties Committee), a senior lawyer in Hyderabad and an organisation involved in human rights work. HT had reported exclusively on Sunday that the central anti-terror probe

agency has booked at least 64 persons—mostly activists and a journalist—under Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) and sedition for helping Maoists in their activities. This is NIA's second case against activists after Bhima Koregaon probe, in which several activists like Sudha Bhardwaj, Anand Teltumbde, Professor Hany Babu MT, Father Stan Swamy have already been arrested for allegedly being part of Maoists' frontal networks to increase their influence. The prominent activists named in NIA First Information Report are — Chilika Chandrasekhar, VS

Krishna, Human Rights Forum (HRF) coordinator for Telangana and Andhra Pradesh — who has been speaking against Andhra's anti-Naxal force—the Greyhounds—for allegedly raping 11 tribal women in 2007 in the Vikapalli incident; and Duddu Prabhakar (a prominent Dalit activist). Chandrasekhar told HT—"The NIA team is at my residence in Guntur without presence of any intermediary. My wife is at home alone. They have not allowed anybody to see anything". It was not clear if Krishna's premises were also being searched by the agency. Prabhakar is cur-

rently in jail after he was arrested by Andhra Pradesh police few weeks ago. ANIA officer, who didn't want to be named, said most of the 64 accused named in the FIR are being raided to collect evidence on their involvement in the conspiracy. This officer added that the agency wants to unearth the entire 'urban-naxals' network. The latest case was registered by Andhra Pradesh police on November 23 last year after the arrest of a TV journalist from Visakhapatnam, Pangi Naganna (30). It is alleged that Naganna worked as a courier for Maoists and had been

passing information to the ultras inside the jungle about police movements and as instructed by Maoist leaders he was involved in instigating villagers to stop the forces from combing operations, obstruct police from entering villages, revolt against police parties and hold rallies against the government. Revolutionary Maoist literature, press notes, medicines, wire bundles and other incriminating material was said to have been recovered from his bag at the time of arrest. During his interrogation, Naganna said he facilitated meetings between Maoists and civil society organisations.

Bhubaneswar at the forefront of the most advanced technology "The Third Space Endoscopy"

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Mar 31: Therapeutic endoscopy has evolved tremendously over the past decades and the development of submucosal endoscopy opens the third space for treatment of gastrointestinal diseases. Third space endoscopy, also commonly referred as submucosal endoscopy, is founded on the principle that the deeper layers of the gastrointestinal (GI) tract can be accessed by tunneling in the submucosal space without compromising the integrity of the overlying mucosa. Peroral endoscopic myotomy (POEM), endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD), and submucosal tunneling endoscopic resection (STER), Gastric peroral endoscopic myotomy (G-POEM), Submucosal tunneling of endoscopic septum division (STESD like Z-POEM and D-POEM) and Per-rectal endoscopic myotomy (PREM) are innovative techniques within the field of third space en-



doscopy in the management of GI tract disorders. All TSE procedures employ a similar technique—after a mucosal incision, a submucosal tunnel is created, a myotomy is performed, or a subepithelial tumor is resected distal to the site of mucosal incision, after which the mucosal incision is closed. The diseases which are very successfully treated with this technology are Achalasia cardia and other esophageal motility diseases, are disorders in the food pipe lead to difficulty in swallowing food, refractory gastroparesis, where food remains inside the

stomach and does not move for digestion, submucosal tumors, where the tumors are deep seated inside the GI tract wall, early cancers, Zenkers diverticulum a disorder of the pharynx leads to difficulty in swallowing and regurgitation of food, Hirschsprungs disease, a disorder in passing stool. The surgeries are performed through the natural orifices like mouth and anus, no need for any external cut on the body surface, extremely safe procedures; blood loss during the surgery is extremely minimal, so blood transfusions are not required, patients are discharged

within 2-3 days and they resume normal life after 5 days. This is the most advanced and recent technology, which uses the hybrid knife and water jet technique from ERBE Germany for its performance. Immensely satisfying and exceedingly successful minimally invasive surgery both for the patients and doctors. They live a happy and normal life after the surgery. This technology came to India few years back and very few centers in big metros are performing this surgery with a cost between 3-6 lakhs. Bhubaneswar becomes the pioneer in the eastern region in acquiring

and performing this technology for better patient care. Patients from different states come to Bhubaneswar for this surgery as it costs only 28,000 rupees. It also taken initiatives to train doctors with this advanced technology for better patient care. Dr Manoj Kumar Sahu a Gastroenterologist at Bhubaneswar told, presently this surgery is performed at SUM Hospital, but is can be done in other govt and private hospitals in different parts of our state. Odisha is moving forward in the health care sector and Bhubaneswar is emerging as a health hub for patients not only from our state, also from other parts of the country and able to provide the world class care at the most affordable cost. IMS Sum hospital Gastroenterology Department HOD Dr Manoj Kumar sahu, And IMS Sum hospital medical superintendent Dr Pushpa raj samanta singhra were present in this press meet

Peaceful protest rally demanding legislation on cattle protection

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Mar 31: A peaceful protest rally has been held at the Ram Mandir premises under the leadership of young social activist Abhishek Mallick. Volunteers and government

Mallick has accused cattle of inhumanely killing people. It also called for an end to illegal cattle ranching, strong action against those involved, enacting cattle protection laws, the appointment of adequate veterinar-

herds. Social activists Jagmohan Baliarsingh, Supriya Mohanty, Manoj Sahu and Snehashish Sahu, Gosebak Shashikant Shatapathi, Rashmiranjan Swayam, Soumya Bhutia, Shiv Behera,



workers from various organizations were present at 9 a.m. today. A protest rally was then held. Mr

ians in government veterinary clinics, the restoration of government herds, and the privatization of private

Debashis Raut, Purnachandra Nayak, among others were present at the protest meeting.

The Oriya boy made a name for himself in the Andamans



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Mar 31: An Oriya boy brought his name back to the Andamans. Ram Prasad Muduli of Rameshwar Patna, Old Bhubaneswar, is the Chief Executive Officer of Sonar Group of Companies and an Oriya entrepreneur. He has built

a new passenger ship at Port Blair in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The ship is a new and fast-moving ship that will travel to the 7th Light Capital. The ship was inaugurated at Port Blair by Union Minister for Port, Shipping and Water Resources Mansukh Lal Mandvi as

the chief guest. It was attended by State MP Vikas Mahatme, Mr. Muduli, CEO of Sonar Group of Companies, members of Sri Lanka's Adventure, many dignitaries and employees of the company. Later, the Oriya boy in Andaman and Nicobar Islands became pregnant.

Eight Sum Hospital Departments Ranked Number One

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Mar 31: The Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital, faculty of medicine of Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA), has been chosen the number one hospital in the city in eight different departments in the Times Health Icons awards presented here on Sunday. The hospital's departments of Gastro Sciences, Emergency and Trauma Care, Neurology, Obstet-

rics and Gynecology, Urology, Cosmetic and Plastic Surgery, Dermatology and In-Vitro Fertilization (IVF) and Fertility were ranked number one at the ceremony organised by the Times Group and graced by Bollywood actor Suniel Shetty. Besides, the departments of Pediatrics, Oncology and Cardiology were placed second while Orthopedics and Nephrology were ranked third.



Sumum Ranked No. 1 Multi Specialty Hospital (Emerging Category) In Eastern India

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Mar 31: SUM Ultimate Medicare (SUMUM), the one-stop, next generation, multi-superspecialty, quaternary care hospital which came up in the Odisha capital a year ago, has emerged as the number one hospital in the emerging category in eastern India in the Times Health Icon award ceremony held here on Sunday. The departments of Cardiology, Neurology, Nephrology, Oncology, Gastroenterology, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Urology, Emergency and



Trauma Care and Pediatrics at SUMUM were chosen as the top departments in the emerging category. SUMUM's Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Swetapadma Dash and Chief of Medical Services, Brig. (Dr.) Biraj

Mohan Mishra were present to receive the award from Bollywood actor Suniel Shetty. Union minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas and Steel, Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan and Odisha's minister for Health and Family

Welfare, Mr. Naba Kishore Das also graced the occasion. SUMUM, an initiative of Siksha 'O' Anusandhan, recently has achieved the 5th edition National Accreditation Board for Hospital and Health Care Providers (NABH) certificate within 365 days of its inception, while the 5th edition is yet to complete one year. The hospital, which has pocketed five different honours within the first year of its existence, also became the country's first hospital to get the NABH certificate in its 5th edition.

Sex Racket Busted In Odisha Capital, Four Including 2 Women Arrested



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Mar 31: It has been decided to run a Special Express Train between Puri and Gunupur w.e.f. 22nd April from Puri and w.e.f. 23rd April, 2021 from Gunupur

till further advice. 08417 Puri-Gunupur Special from Puri will leave at 0930hrs w.e.f. 22nd April, 2021 and will reach Gunupur at 2050hrs. In the return direction, 08418 Gunupur-Puri Special from Gunupur will

leave at 0600hrs w.e.f. 23rd April, 2021 and will arrive at Puri at 1545hrs. Puri-Gunupur-Puri Special Train has Six Second Class Reserved Seating Coach and Two Guard cum Luggage Van in its composition

having stoppages at Sakhigopal, Birpurusottampur, Delang, Kanas Road, Motari, Khurda Road, Tapang, Nirajapur, Bhusandpur, Kalupadaghat, Kuhuuri, Gangadharpur, Balugaon, Chilka, Khalikot, Rambha, Humma, Ganjam, Chhatrapur, Jagannathpur, Brahmapur, Golanthara, Surla Road, Ichhapuram, Sompeta, Mandasa Road, Palasa, Pundi, Naupada, Tekkali, Pathapatnam, Parlakhemundi, Kashinagar & Banasdhara between Puri and Gunupur from both the directions.

Sex Racket Busted In Odisha Capital, Four Including 2 Women Arrested

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Mar 31: The Twin City Commissionerate Police last night busted a sex racket at an apartment in Laxmisagar area of Odisha capital. Cops arrested two women of Kendrapara and Puri who were carrying out

the flesh trade and two customers hailing from Ganjam. Locals had earlier informed the Laxmisagar police regarding the sex racket operating in a flat of the apartment. On the basis of the information, a police team raided the place and seized various objectionable articles.

No. 2318173239, Coach No.S-10, Seat No.12. Today he made contact with his relatives by his own mobile Phone. He also appreciated the humanitarian work done by RPF ASI A.K.Jena, so that proper treatment can be provided timely.

RPF Officer of Puri Railway Station, noticed one old age person in unconscious state

31/3, while on duty RPF Officer was engaged for checking of Station Platform area of Puri Railway Station, noticed one old age person [aged about-80 Years] was lying on Platform No.05 & 06 in unconscious state. On seeing his condition above named RPF ASI provided initial medical first aid and also informed the matter to concern Officials for providing medical treatment. Subsequently the above named RPF Officer shifted to him Dist.Hospital Puri for immediate treatment. Today in course of follow-up action RPF Staff also visited the Hospital and interacted with the above old age person as now he is feeling well. The concern person



gave out his name & address as Nedunuri Viswanadham, aged about-76 Years, At Venkupallem, Anakapalle, Visakhapatnam [A.P.]. He further informed that he came Varanasi/DDU by Nandankanan Express, vide PNR

No. 2318173239, Coach No.S-10, Seat No.12. Today he made contact with his relatives by his own mobile Phone. He also appreciated the humanitarian work done by RPF ASI A.K.Jena, so that proper treatment can be provided timely.

EDITORIAL

The Real Sufferers

COVID-19 may be a universal tormentor but hapless women and kids within the walls are its collateral. The second wave of the Coronavirus pandemic is surging in India, thanks to our utter disregard for the established COVID-19 protocols. The number of cases has touched 11,908,910, with 4,52,612 active infections and the number of deaths touching 1,61,275. States like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Goa and Andhra Pradesh are seeing a major spike in infections. The situation is obviously quite serious as the new strains are more virulent. Even though at the moment a hard, nationwide lockdown is not being mulled, the Government might have to opt for a countrywide shutdown. Already, local lockdowns are being announced in various districts in the States hit by the second wave. However, India cannot afford another lockdown. For one, the economy cannot withstand another such shock. Besides, thousands of women and children across India cannot be forced to stay captive inside their homes once again and be subjected to physical, emotional and mental abuse by their family members. It is a cruel fact that the first lockdown witnessed a silent pandemic of domestic violence (DV) as there was a surge in gender-based violence in homes as family dynamics changed and so did the economic situation. Not only did women have to juggle household chores and manage their office work and teach fretful children cooped up at home, they had to bear the brunt of the anger and frustration bottled up inside the main bread-earners of the family who had to either face a major salary cut, go on a sabbatical or, worse, lose their job. Many men, already habitual of beating up their wives, got more time and opportunity to do so. By the second month of the lockdown, complaints about domestic abuse doubled and rose from 116 in the first week of March to 257 in the final week. According to official data, the National Commission for Women (NCW) registered an increase of 2.5 times in complaints of domestic violence in April last year. The NCW received 1,477 complaints between 25 March and 31 May. Not just women, children were also subjected to abuse by family members. The phenomenon was witnessed across the world, but that is no consolation for helpless women and terrified children trapped for days on end with their tormentors. At least for the sake of the abused women and children, we need to be more responsible this time around. So sanitise, mask up and get that job. Do your bit to help the helpless, India!

Lockdown pains

The talk of another round of lockdown in Maharashtra should alert us to religiously follow the standard protocols. Even as the number of active Coronavirus cases continues to spiral up, several State Governments are considering the possibility of imposing another round of lockdown even as severe restrictions have already been put in place in select districts across States. Maharashtra alone has recorded nearly six lakh cases in March, with the spurt in cases being also reported from Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Kerala and Karnataka, among others. The question of whether a "full lockdown" will return to contain the spread of the virus has been hanging in the air for some time now though the Centre has made it clear that there won't be a national lockdown. At the same time, however, it has advised the States to take remedial measures at the local level. But it is proving to be an onerous task amid the spate of festivals, especially since people have spent almost an entire year staying behind closed doors and this has given rise to fatigue within, besides the fact that the citizenry isn't thinking twice before crowding public spaces such as marketplaces, cinema theatres or election rallies, virtually mocking the standard protocols. Adding to the worry of the various States' administration is the fact that the new strains of the virus are far more virulent and there are apprehensions that the vaccines developed and allowed for use so far may not be entirely effective in the ongoing fight against COVID-19. In a sense, the new variants have effectively put paid to the collective heroic efforts of the frontline workers, especially the doctors, scientists and virologists. The sorry state of affairs in the State has prompted the Maharashtra Government to draw up a road map for another possible lockdown though the plan has elicited sharp reactions from most political parties who are obviously scared of serious public backlash, should the Sena-NCP-Congress alliance Government decide to go down that path. Now the coalition Government is likely to take a decision on the issue in early April after reviewing the situation. While there is no denying the fact that the livelihood cost of a lockdown is quite high in terms of unemployment and economic and trade losses, equally true is the fact that unless a wide-ranging public awareness exercise is re-launched on a war footing and the vaccination drive is ramped up expeditiously, there shall be no let-up in the number of active COVID-19 cases. There is an urgent need on the part of all of us, the Governments and the people alike, to not lower our guard and religiously follow the standard operating procedures as advised by the medical fraternity and cleared by the Government. A lot of damage has already been done, with India now standing at the sixth spot among the countries worst hit by the accursed virus, but still not everything is lost. Fully and honestly observing the laid down protocols is the only surefire way we can keep ourselves, our families and society out of harm's way.



Uma Shankar Prasad
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Nationalism is the aspiration to establish a cultural solidarity in the gathering of the best language and culture, the best aspiration of the indigent people. "Nationalism is the unifying motive for the comprehensive development of a nation without racism, patriotism and self-interest. Promoting the nation, preserving national culture, literature, art, heritage, etc., as well as maintaining the socio-economic development of the nation or its sovereign geographical integrity and unity and solidarity is the key to patriotism or nationalism." After Mukund Dev, the last independent king of Odisha, Afghanistan was ruled by Afghanistan, and in phases it was ruled by the Mughals, the Marathas, and the British, while in Bengal, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh it lost its sovereignty and integrity. An order was issued on April 1, 1938, to establish a separate Utkal province for eight districts, after a long period of severe sunburn and the aftermath of a long-running revolution. "In the 14th, the amalgamation of the Gadjat region spread to the north of Odisha, although more than 3 million Oriyas were exiled in the border areas of Orissa. It's been a long year." In the meantime, Utkal Bharati's son-in-law and the eloquent son-in-law of Utkal Bharati have embraced the consciousness of Swadeshanurag in the spontaneous language of his poetic soul, as well as inspiring and inspiring the public consciousness of Odisha as the "energy house". "On this auspicious occasion of Advocate's Day, Suman's Kusumanjali is dedicated to them.

Utkal Gourav Madhusudan Das: The talented, caste-minded man, who played a key role in making Odisha a separate state, showed the way of light from the dense darkness of the nineteenth century (in Surendra Mohanty's language) to the sun of the century. He was a dreamer and architect of the modern lawyer. "He was also the pride of



India." "Madhusudan is my guru in Gandhiji's definition. In the language of Maharshi Arvind, he was the pinnacle of leadership." He is the unique crownless emperor of Odisha. "In his poems, he urges the nation to reconsider.

"tu para bolau utkal santan, tebe kimpa tuhin viru; tohara janani rodan karile, kahibaku kimpa daru." Only those who are able to reach out to the sky can speak. But the poet and orator Madhubabu felt that the lawyer Janani had been crying for a long time in the darkness of independence. "Although she conceived a number of workers in her womb, they did so in their own helplessness, instead of giving her verbal reassurance and comfort in Janani's helpless state. "Is busy." Therefore, in his son's poetry, he should instill a sense of nationalism in the hearts of Oriyas "jati prema banhi prajyolita kara swartha ku dia ahuti, swartamedha yangya chariade kar chhati ku misai chhati."

Pandit Gopbandhu Das: Pandit Gopbandhu Das, a unique seeker, was a shining example of how to serve the poor, the afflicted, the floods, the droughts, the winds. Amlan devoted his life to the service of the nation without regard to his own personal happiness and health. He was a unique symbol of service. "He was the epitome of a unique Advocate campaign and a unique legacy of the lost legacy." In fact, his native Enurag, enlightened by the practice of law, was no different from the Mahabharata

consciousness. "Punyatma Gopbandhu was a true patriot. "Every place in India was his favorite. The country's hills are rocky, rocky, sandy, and sandy. "In his eyes, the most revered is Shalgram. The water of the flowing river was the water of the holy Panchatirtha for him. Every tree in India is like a giant tree. Jagannath, the lord of all the worlds "His knowledge is evident in his eyes." He always said, "Our identity: we are lawyers: lawyers are our most beloved." "He thus addressed every Oriya in the great mantra of nationalism.

Jatiprana Maharaja Krishnachandra Gajapati: Another unique seeker of Utkal Preeti was Jatiprana Maharaja Krishnachandra Gajapati. A ruler is a symbol of how to be efficient, how to improve the well-being of his subjects, and how the ruler can protect his nation, his mother tongue. The formation of the state of Odisha was similar to that of Madhuban. His contribution to the formation of the Special Advocate State is memorable.

Utkal Hiteshi Maharaja Sriramchandra Bhanjdeo: Similarly, Utkal Hitaushi Maharaja Shri Ramchandra Bhanjdeo is a unique example. Maharaja Shri Ramchandra Bhanjdeo is a great example of how a Maharaja ruled in a democratic manner during the beginning of the twentieth century. He was arrogant. "Those who have become permanent residents of Utkal, that is, those who consider Utkal to be their home, are our brothers and sisters even if they

are of different nationalities. "They will be considered lawyers. "Maharaja Sri Ramachandra's love of language and literature was incomparable. "The first session of the Advocates' Conference was chaired by him in 1903 at the Iduga Padia in Cuttack. "The first lawyers' conference, chaired by Mayurbhanj Maharaja, was adopted and renamed the Utkal Sammilani, and those who came to Utkal to accept and accept Odisha as their motherland and to pursue the interests of the Oriyas. "Need to think.

Byasakabi Fakir Mohan Senapati: Byasakabi Fakir Mohan Senapati was the eternal greeter in sharpening the race, love and spirit. "When the neighboring Bengalis sat down to eradicate Oriya language literature by saying that Oriya was not a separate language, the great minister of modern Oriya literature preserved the Oriya language by running his strong writing. "His poetry was a great mantra of awakening.

Dr. Harekrishna Mahatab: Similarly, another unique Kandari who loved his motherland Utkal was Dr. Harekrishna Mahatab. "Harekrishna Mahatab is like Guru Dronacharya of the Mahabharata era in the great war of rebuilding post-independence Odisha. "He was not only a political leader, he was also a prominent figure in the politics, education, literature, culture, journalism, sports, dance, art, etc. of post-independence Odisha. "His dream was to become a special lawyer. "On April 1, 1936, Odisha became a separate state, with the largest new state of Odisha, the long-isolated Gadjat states, revolutionary Dakfar Mahatab. "As a result, it merged with Odisha. "In this way, the devotee Madhusudan Rao, a hundred years ago, became conscious of the Oriya nation's alienation. "The poet praised the Hindu goddess Kirtisab for the Utkal children. "Told the story of the glory of the past. "Similarly, Kantakabi's timeless lyricist 'Bande Utkal Janani' has made Kantakabi immortal today. "The Oriya nation is indebted to him today. "Let his enlightenment be our focus. "Let the people of Odisha be enlightened with patriotism. "So much for Utkal Day.

The Electric Challenge

Kushan Mitra

on petrol and diesel are like a carbon consumption tax. If you do not want to pay this tax, go electric. As an automotive reviewer for almost two decades, this columnist has driven several electric vehicles, even living with them for a few weeks. This gave me the opportunity to evaluate their running costs in a real-world situation and on something like the Hyundai Kona and Tata Nexon EV, this came to a rupee a kilometre even at the peak unit rate of power in Delhi. A similar vehicle with a petrol or diesel engine would have running fuel costs between Rs 6-10 per km at the current rates. There are many arguments against electric vehicles. The more fallacious ones surround the fact that polluting thermal energy constitutes a majority of India's power mix. But again, like fuel prices at the pump, that is being a victim of the present. India is aggressively changing its energy mix with more solar and wind energy sources coming onstream. But the one that cannot be escaped is the fact that electric vehicles are much more expensive than internal combustion engine vehicles and leave India vulnerable to a whole new cluster of nations that dominate natural resources in this arena, much like India was beholden to oil-producing Arab nations for years. And in electric vehicles, India has been very slow compared to China; not only has China hoovered up Lithium and other vital resources but also by establishing a manufacturing

ecosystem around electric vehicles and batteries, poses an existential threat to Indian automotive manufacturing. The automotive industry in India directly employs close to 15 million people, indirectly employing five-six times as many in varied other sectors, from components to logistics to sales and even the vibrant automotive media. There is a realisation that the industry has to pivot to cleaner alternatives as air pollution and fuel prices are a concern. However, it is not going to be an easy task, although increasing consumer preference for electric vehicles will be a major driver for change. But to truly drive electrification, the products have to be desirable, and affordable. The perfect electric motorcycle considered by a large industry player has what that company calls the '70 Trifecta', a range of 70 km, a top speed of 70 km per hour and costs Rs 70,000. Fulfilling the first two criteria is relatively easy to fit a bigger and better battery, the third is the challenge in India. And if prices of important raw materials go up, the price of Lithium Carbonate has doubled since bottling out in late 2020, it will only drive prices higher. And similar issues exist in passenger vehicles; even if lower-range urban commuter hatchbacks are a model chosen for India, would a consumer be willing to pay 50 per cent more, say Rs 9 lakh vis-

avis Rs 6 lakh, even if they knew that over a lifetime of eight years and 1,00,000 km of driving they would save Rs 6-7 lakh in running costs if benchmarked at today's petrol prices? May be. But would they pay Rs 12 lakh for such a car even if net-net they will end up saving money? And then there is the biggest problem for the Government. If mass electric vehicle adoption takes place in the next five-six years, have the Governments thought about just how they will make up for the lakhs of crores of lost petroleum taxation? Here is the bizarre irony of the situation: The Central, State and city Governments are incentivising people to buy vehicles that will eventually cost them their lunch. After all, even the most dedicated petrolhead will not be able to argue with the fuel costs involved. While a bureaucrat will come up with ideas to cover the revenue shortfall, but what will that entail? The reduction of electricity subsidies for one, and maybe even increased taxes on electricity including a cut from fast-charging stations? Of course, even if there is rapid adoption of electric vehicles in India, it will not replace internal combustion engines totally. Far from it, recently the Delhi Government and Tata Motors got into a disagreement regarding the range of the Tata Nexon EV, proving that not only is range anxiety real, but it can impact policy issues as well. This is the first part of a series on electric vehicle adoption and policy issues around the same in India.

PEIWU New Office Building Inaugurated

(A.O. Bureau) Paradip, Mar 31: The new office building of Paradip Erasama Industrial Workers Union (PEIWU) has been inaugurated in the SO-9 quarter of Paradip Port recently. On the occasion, a friendly reunion has been organized by the union. It was attended by more than 200 media representatives from Jagatsinghpur

district, including Paradip. Arindam Sarkhel (Bapi Sarkhek) president of PEIWU and Congress leader felicitated all media persons and lauded for their important role and duty during the Corona pandemic. The program was organized by PEIWU general secretary Sameer Biswal, Anup Sahani and coordinated by all members.

Gas cylinder explodes while dousing fire in Jajpur, close shave for personnel



(A.O. Bureau) Jajpur, Mar 31: Fire personnel had a narrow escape as a gas cylinder exploded when they were dousing a fire at Danagadi in the district today. A fire engulfed two shops near Manapur flyover bridge following which

fire personnel reached the spot and tried to extinguish the fire. While in action, suddenly a gas cylinder inside one of the shop exploded due to the fire. However, no casualties have been reported in this incident and all the fire personnel were safe.

Looting a bike with a gun



(A.O. Bureau) Rengali, Mar 31: A bike was reportedly looted from a man near the village of Salad in the Rengali-Sapne road under Rengali police station in Sambalpur district. On Wednesday, Devendra Oram of Rengali Salepada village was on his way to his relative's house on his Honda bike (OD15 Q 5015) when he was stopped by three miscreants near the crossroads after Salad village at

11 a.m. One was sitting on the back of his bike while the other was holding a gun. Devendra was frightened when he saw the gun. He pointed the gun at Devendra and asked him to go. The back of the gun hit his head. Devendra ran to the nearby forest. At this point, the miscreant returned with his bike. Devendra has lodged a complaint with the Rengali police station. Police are investigating.

Balangir: Man kills brother over land dispute

(A.O. Bureau) Balangir, Mar 31: In a shocking incident, a man allegedly killed his brother over a land dispute at Belbahali village under Puintala police limits in Balangir district today. The deceased has been identified as Ashok Bagarti, while the accused is identified as Dhubaleswar. According to reports, Dhubaleswar had an argument with his brother Ashok



over some issue yesterday. The matter worsened after Dhubaleswar, in a fit of rage hacked his brother with a sharp weapon. Soon the family members rescued him and rushed him to

Utkalmani Yubak Sangha has Organized an Awareness Rally Aimed at Eradicating Tobacco

(A.O. Bureau) Kendrapara, Mar 31: The Utkalmani Yubak Sangh(UYS) a Leading Voluntary Organization in the Pattamundai block has Organized Awareness Campaign and Awareness Rallies on the harmful effects of Tobacco/ Drugs. Shri Gouttam Behera National Youth Volunteer cum President of Utkalmani Yubak Sangha spoke at the event discussed various issues of Tobacco/ Drugs. He described tobacco as one of the leading causes of cancer. Tobacco use is the highest example of oral cancer in India "It simply came to our notice then which has finally turned India into the capital of oral cancer, Tobacco kills 2,500 Indians every day, much higher than deaths from HIV and Malaria, according to the Global Adult Tobacco Survey. In this Awareness Discussion Gouttam all parents and all teachers Requested that children not be sent to buy tobacco products for them. To keep children away from tobacco products, he pointed out

"Everyone Needs the Co Operation of the Success of the Drug-Free Village Campaign": National Youth Volunteer Mr. Gouttam Behera



that tomorrow will be tobacco-free and everyone needs cooperation, especially young efforts should be made, Mr.Behera said, adding that tobacco is the biggest enemy of health today. The effects of tobacco use, as we all know, are destructive and widespread. Many do not know that tobacco is a major cause of cancer and heart attack. Many young people, especially in rural areas, are addicted to tobacco in a variety of ways, which can have long-term adverse effects on the health and well-being of the population. According to a

study by the American Cancer Society, about 30 percent of Indians over the age of 15 use tobacco in the Indian population. Early chewing of tobacco, including tobacco leaves, Gutkha and Bidis, Cigarettes and Hookahs, is equally common. Tobacco is the second leading cause of death. It is well known that half of people who smoke regularly today will eventually die from tobacco. Equally alarming is the fact that hundreds of thousands of non-smokers die each year from respiratory illnesses, with tobacco smoke containing about 4,000 chemicals in ciga-

rettes, of which 100 are formaldehyde, ammonia and cadmium. These components of cigarettes have a detrimental effect on everything: from the body's immune system to the functioning of the organs. Quitting smoking is not an easy task but one needs to stop and give up the gift of a healthy and smoke-free life. Start a journey towards an active and tobacco-free life. Utkalmani Yubak Sangh's activities aimed at eradicating tobacco Ajit Behera, Baishnab Behera, Sraban, Sahadev & Munidra were the prominent participants.

Ambulance Driver Returns Bag With Rs 62,000 Cash To Accident Victim

(A.O. Bureau) Rayagada, Mar 31: A good Samaritan, an ambulance driver at the district headquarters hospital returned Rs 62,160 in cash to a patient whom he had ferried last night. The patient who left his cash bag in the ambulance met with an accident while returning from Rayagada. He ran into a ditch and fell unconscious. The man was ferried by

the ambulance driver to the hospital. Later as he found cash in the vehicle, the driver rushed to report it to his manager. They met the patient in the hospital ward and handed him over the money. The accident victim's joys knew no bounds on getting back the lost money. The 108 ambulance driver, staff and their manager's act earned praise in Rayagada town.



Newborn Baby Boy Recovered From Dumpyard In Umerkote



(A.O. Bureau) Umerkote, Mar 31: A newborn baby boy was rescued from a dump yard near the Teacher's Colony here on Monday. According to reports, the newborn was dumped in a garbage box by an unidentified person who fled from the location immediately. A woman heard the faint cry of the baby and alerted her neighbours. They rescued the baby

and reported the local police. Soon after, a medical team rushed to the spot and shifted the newborn to the local health centre. According to the doctors, he is a premature baby weighing around 1.6 kg. The baby was weak and wailing when he arrived at the hospital. "Once the infant recovers fully he will be under the care of district Child Welfare Committee," the doctors said.

Brown sugar worth Rs 33 lakh seized in Bhadrak

(A.O. Bureau) Bhadrak, Mar 31: Brown sugar worth Rs 33 lakh was seized and a man arrested in Bhadrak district on Wednesday. Acting on a tip-off, Puruna Bazar

police stopped a bike and arrested the rider Manoranjan Malik with seizure of 330 gm brown sugar from the possession. Estimated value of the seized contraband would be worth

around Rs 33 lakh, said police. Further investigation is on to find out his link with peddlers of Jaleswar area of Balasore district which is infamous for smuggling of the contraband.



3 Maoist Cadres Surrender In Malkangiri

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, Mar 31: Three active members of Andhra-Odisha Border Special Zonal Committee (AOBSZC) of the CPI (Maoist) organisation have surrendered before Malkangiri SP Rishikesh Dnyandeo Khilari and the BSF. The three have been identified as Mainu alias Sambhu Dodi of Chinaterem village and Rama Apka of Ganglur village in Bijapur district of neighbouring State Chhattisgarh and Raghu Khara of Beijing village in Malkangiri district of Odisha. Mainu had joined the banned CPI (Maoist) party in the year 2009 as Swadesh Committee Member of Jagurkonda

Area Committee. In 2010 he joined Narayan Patna Area Committee as Platoon Member. Currently, he was working as Area Committee Member of AOBSZC Military Platoon and was carrying a cash reward of Rs 4 Lakhs announced by the Government of Odisha. Rama had joined the banned CPI (Maoist) party in the year 2009 as Swadesh Committee Member of Jagurkonda Area Committee. In 2010 he joined Narayan Patna Area Committee as Platoon Member. Currently, he was working as Area Committee Member of AOBSZC Military Platoon and was carrying a cash reward of Rs 4 Lakhs announced by the Govern-

ment of Odisha. Raghu Khara had joined the banned CPI (Maoist) party in Gumma Area Committee in September 2017. Currently, he was working as Party Member of Gumma Area Committee under AOBSZC and was carrying a cash reward of Rs 1 Lakh announced by the Government of Odisha. All of them will be properly rehabilitated and will receive monetary assistance as per the Surrender and Rehabilitation Scheme of Government of Odisha. They will also get financial assistance for building house, pursuing studies and getting training in a trade/vocation of their will. They left the Maoist organisation after witnessing various developmental

activities being undertaken by the Government of Odisha and realized the futility of violent path of Naxalism. They understood that Maoist them-

ing killed mercilessly. They have disclosed that that remaining few local/active Maoist cadres are also willing to surrender and join the mainstream of the



themselves are standing in the path of development of the region through their subversive activities. For that purpose, they are making innocent tribals to fight amongst themselves and once their utility is over, they are being branded as police informers and be-

society because of the torturous behaviour of Chhattisgarh and Andhra Cadres but they are not being allowed to surrender by the senior Maoist leaders of AOBSZC who are threatening them of killing them and their family members.

Kriti Sanon Jokingly Pushes Varun Dhawan in the River, the Latter Loses Balance

New Delhi, Mar 31: Kriti Sanon and Varun Dhawan are currently enjoying their stay in Arunachal Pradesh. They arrived in the hill state in March for the shoot of the movie Bhediya. Both the actors are enjoying the lovely weather of the north-eastern state and also sharing a lot of videos from their stay. In one of the latest clips which have since gone viral on social media, Kriti is seen pretending to be pushing Varun in the river. Varun almost loses balance but Kriti holds him back. The actress clearly found it funny, we are not sure about Varun though. A camera then becomes visible shooting the entire scene. Both Varun and Kriti recently celebrated Holi in Hapoli village of Arunachal Pradesh. Varun, Kriti along with their director Amar Kaushik, and other crew members of Bhediya were seen enjoying a bonfire in a video clip shared by one of Kriti's fan accounts. In some of the other videos shared online, Kriti was seen dancing on popular tracks like Shaitan Ka Saala from Housefull 4 and Hookah Bar from Khiladi 786. Varun had also recently shared a video from Arunachal where he is seen running fast and hard. Along with Varun, we can see his fitness trainer Devrath Vijay in the video. Varun had captioned the post with a simple "back to running". In the video,



we can hear one of the most popular soundtracks of the 90s Yahan Ke Hum Sikandar from the Aamir Khan movie Jo Jeetaahi Sikandar.

Hindi film industry stares at slump 'worse than 2020'



Mumbai, Mar 31: The Hindi film industry that has been bleeding for over a year now, saw a glimmer of hope at the beginning of the new year as Roohi managed to bring audiences back to cinema halls, followed by Mumbai Saga. It appeared good times were ahead as filmmakers announced the release dates of their upcoming films, with Sooryavanshi, Chehre, Banti Aur Babli 2, Radhe: Your Most Wanted Bhai and Satyamev Jayate 2 lined up for release in the coming months. However, as COVID-19 went on rampage again, amid the surging numbers, clampdowns and night curfews, many filmmakers have already withdrawn their films' release dates. While Haathi Mere Saathi makers decided to delay its release, Chehre and Bunty Aur

Babli 2 have also been postponed. Internationally, Marvel tent-pole The Black Widow's release date has again been shifted. Punjabi film Puaada, starring Ammy Virk, has also delayed its release. There are reports that some other big Hindi films may push their release dates again. This means humongous losses for a film industry that supports lakhs of people - from actors and directors to technicians and daily-wagers. The once dazzling theatres and cinema halls wear a deserted look, even as the industry wonders how it will deal with the massive costs it is ill-prepared to fork out. An industry which is already dealing with losses going into thousands of crores, says it is going to be worse than 2020 if losses keep on mounting. Film producer Anand Pandit was

confident of releasing his Amitabh Bachchan-Emraan Hashmi-starrer Chehre in cinemas. Less than a fortnight ago, he had told indianexpress.com, "Now that films are being released in theatres, businesses are slowly going back on track. At this point we know how to better take care of ourselves by following SOPs and COVID-19 related protocols. There was a fear that had set in the mind of people, now everybody is more careful and responsible. So, it is a good time for our films to release in theatres." However, on Tuesday, Pandit announced that Chehre will not release on April 9th as planned earlier. He said, "I have always lived by the maxim of 'safety first'. Given the rising number of COVID cases, it is only right that we delay the release of

Chhattisgarh, calls this a "haphazard solution". He says, "I have absolute faith in the authorities of our country, pretty much everything has been opened up, whether it is political rallies, restaurants or moving on the streets. And, looking at the numbers of Godzilla vs Kong, even after a very limited release, it looks like people are ready and more than willing to come back to theatres." Rathi wants the government to pay heed to the need to reopen cinema halls for them to earn their living and pay salaries to their employees. He says, "After one year of depriving cinemas of absolutely any income, after not giving them any kind of financial relief or support, the only thing that the government authorities can do is let them earn their own bread and let them enough to pay the salaries of millions of employees this sector employs." Annoyed with the fact that other businesses and political activities stay unaffected while cinemas bleed to death, he said, "Lakhs and lakhs of people are going out for political rallies and when streets are crowded, I don't think they won't come for movies that they really want to watch, knowing that cinema halls are following all the rules properly and are following for best safety regulations."

Emma Watson did not storm off the set of This Is The End, clarifies Seth Rogen

New Delhi, Mar 31: Actor-director Seth Rogen has clarified that British star Emma Watson did not leave the set of his 2013 movie This Is The End over a scene she did not like. Rogen's statement came after he seemingly confirmed the rumour that Watson had stormed off the set of the comedy film, which he had directed with partner Evan Goldberg.

Spot These 6 Rare and Exotic Animals Only in India

New Delhi, Mar 31: Wildlife plays an important role for the earth, as it scientifically balances the environment and ensures harmonious co-existence among beings. Indian wildlife sanctuaries are home to rare, beautiful and elusive species of animals that can be found only in our country. From lion-tailed macaque in the Western Ghats of India to Sangai, subspecies of brow-antlered deer that holds cultural significance in Manipur, here are some wildlife sanctuaries worth visiting, curated by Booking.com curates to bring you a little closer to the beautiful species.

1. Lion-tailed macaque, Shendurumy Wildlife Sanctuary (Kerala): As an Old World monkey native to the Western Ghats of South India, they rank among the rarest of the 250-species (approx.) of primates around the world. The Shendurumy Wildlife Sanctuary, a protected area in the Kollam district of Kerala houses and protects the highly endangered species. Spread over 172.403 sq.km, India's first eco-tourism project, Thenmala Eco-tourism Project has been formulated in and around Shendurumy Wildlife Sanctuary.
2. Nilgiri marten in Anamalai Tiger Reserve (Tamil Nadu): The Nilgiri marten, a small carnivorous mammal, is the only marten species native to India. They are found in

moist and wet evergreen forests of the Western Ghats, living at altitudes of 150-2200 m. The animal that usually appears of dark brown colour with a yellow-coloured patch at its forehead.

3. The Kashmir Stag in Dachigam National Park (Jammu & Kashmir): The Kashmir Stag, also known as Hangul, is a subspecies of elk and is native to Kashmir. Only found in the

asin.

5. Pygmy Hog, Manas National Park (Assam): As a critically endangered species, pygmy hog is now only found in Assam. These are the smallest wild pigs and piglets, and they are one of the very few mammals that build its own home and complete it with a roof. The species is the sole representative of Porcula, suid native to alluvial grasslands in the foot-



dense riverine forests of Dachigam National Park located at 22 km from Srinagar, the Kashmir Stag is listed as one of the critically endangered and rare species.

4. Sangai in Keibul Lamjao National Park (Manipur): The endangered subspecies of brow-antlered deer, called sangai, is only found in Manipur. They reside in about 15-20 km area across the Keibul Lamjao National Park in Manipur, the only floating park in the world. As the state animal of Manipur, its significance is seen in the cultural folklore where sangai is the binding factor between humans and nature and killing it was

hills of the Himalayas, and their extinction may result in the extinction of the species.

6. Nilgiri Tahr, Eravikulam National Park (Kerala): As the only mountain ungulate in Southern India among just 12 species found in India, Nilgiri Tahr is found only in the tropical rainforest of the Western Ghats. With curved horns, coarse and short fur, the Nilgiri Tahr is extensively found in the Eravikulam National Park (Idukki district) where an estimated 700-800 Nilgiri Tahrs live. Nilgiri Tahr in Eravikulam National Park occurs in two types of groups: the mixed groups and an all-male group.

NFAI Says it Has Acquired Rare Footage of Meena Kumari's 'Pakeezah'

New Delhi, Mar 31: Kamal Amrohi's Pakeezah was made in a decade-and-a-half time period. It is now synonymous with its star, Meena Kumari, who died just after it finally released. The National Film Archive of India (NFAI) on Wednesday said they have obtained a rare footage of Meena Kumari-starrer Pakeezah, including the visuals of the popular song 'Inhin Logon Ne'. NFAI said that they have added a rare 18-minute footage in 16mm of the making of Kamal Amrohi's iconic film. The footage has rare visuals of the 15-year long journey of Pakeezah, from its inception to release. Also featuring Raaj Kumar and Ashok Kumar, the ro-

mantic-musical-drama revolves around a courtesan (Kumari) and her forbidden love. This is a very rare addition to the NFAI collection. The preliminary inspection reveals the condition of the film is heavily scratched and colour faded. We are trying our best to salvage the material so that it can be made accessible to the audience, Prakash Magdum, director, NFAI, said in a statement in Mumbai. One of the highlights is the visuals of the popular song 'Inhin Logon Ne' shot in black and white in the early period of the shooting of the film, in which

and the clapper board shows the date as 16th July 1956, the NFAI said in a release. The footage also contains a Mohammed Rafi's qawwali number 'Jaye Toh Jaye Kaha, Ab Ye Tera Deewana', which was not included in the released film, it said. The late Ghulam Mohammad, best known for scoring music for Mirza Ghalib, Shama, had composed the music of Pakeezah, to lyrics penned by several poets, including

and Kaif Bhopali. The other visuals include scenes from the premiere of the film, which was held at the Maratha Mandir in Bombay on February 4, 1972, the release said. Amrohi and Meena Kumari had married in 1952, but their relationship soured later. The film went on floors in 1956 and reportedly took about 16 years to arrive at the big

screen. Pakeezah opened to wide acclaim and upon its release on 4 February, 1972 and was termed as a masterpiece. Weeks after the release of Pakeezah, Kumari died on 31 March 1972 at the age of 39 due to liver cirrhosis. Known as the tragedy queen of Bollywood, Meena Kumari made her debut as a child-artist in 1939 with Leatherface and mesmerized the audience with her performance in films like Bachchon Ka Khel, Baiju Bawra, Parineeta, Sahib Bibi Aur Ghulam, Kaajal, Pakeezah, Mere Apne, Dil Apna Aur Preet Parai, Dil Ek Mandir, among others.



Kumari is seen dancing. This was one of the first sequences to be shot

Kaifi Azmi, Majrooh Sultanpuri

'If you've someone like Ishant around, you can't feel down for long time': Shami

New Delhi, Mar 31: Shami said the success of the current group boils down to the joy they share in each other's success. Giving his own example, the pacer said he was helped massively by Ishant Sharma. Pacer Mohammed Shami will be back on the field for Punjab Kings in the upcoming season of the Indian Premier League (IPL) which begins from April 9 in Chennai. The Indian pacer has recovered from a wrist injury which he sustained in the Test series Down Under which kept him away from the action in the home series against England. Shami has joined the Punjab Kings squad as the franchise will begin its season on April 12 against Sanju Samson-led Rajasthan



Royals in Mumbai. Ahead of the tournament, Shami spoke about Indian youngsters who played a crucial role in India's historic win in Australia. While speaking to news agency PTI, Shami said the success of the current group boils down to the joy they share in each other's success. Giving his own example,

the pacer said he was helped massively by Ishant Sharma when he made his debut and that taught him to share his wisdom with the youngsters coming into the side. "What do I say about him. He is the best guy around. Doesn't give you the feeling that he has played double of what you have played. When I had come in, he

had already played about 50 games. Since day one he never behaved like a senior. He likes mingling and laughing around. His behaviour has taught me to how to treat a youngster," Shami said. "When a youngster joins, it is imperative that an established player talks to him about everything under the sun,

it lifts his confidence. If you have someone like Ishant around, I don't think you can feel down for a long time," he added. Talking more about the bond they share, Shami added, "It is a game of confidence and how you can execute plans. We have different skills, Ishant, Jassi and I and we keep reminding each other of our respective skills and persist with them." "We are pushed by each other when we are tired. This fast-bowling group is just wonderful. The last four-five years with them have been really special. We have enjoyed each other's success and this is something you should learn from the Indian team. There are no talks behind the back," he added.

Germany midfielder Toni Kroos criticises World Cup in Qatar

New Delhi, Mar 31: Germany midfielder Toni Kroos said it was "wrong" that Qatar was awarded next year's World Cup and added that it could be appropriate to highlight human rights issues during the tournament. Kroos' comments go beyond the criticism from several national teams, including Germany and Nor-

way, which tried to draw attention to human rights issues ahead of recent World Cup qualifying matches. "For this tournament to be awarded there, I consider that wrong," Kroos said on a podcast released Tuesday that he hosts

with his brother. Kroos flagged up the working conditions for migrant workers, saying they were often "working without breaks, sometimes in 50-degree (Celsius) heat" without enough drinking water. He also noted anti-gay laws in the country and Qatar being "not a soccer country." Kroos, who was on the



German team which won the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, said a boycott campaign was unlikely to have much effect but drawing attention to human rights issues during the tournament could help. "You have to ask the

question: What would a boycott of a tournament like this bring? Is it really the case that something would drastically improve there? Would the working conditions change? I believe not," Kroos said. "Rather, I believe that it is important to draw extreme attention to these problems once again, perhaps also maybe in ad-

vance of or during a tournament like this, so that maybe something can be improved because of that." Kroos, who plays for Real Madrid, is not currently with the German team because of injury.

'I've nothing to prove to anyone': Harbhajan wants to 'enjoy' his stint with KKR



New Delhi, Mar 31: Former Indian off-spinner Harbhajan Singh will be in action in the upcoming season of the Indian Premier League (IPL) which begins on April 9 in Chennai. He will be donning Kolkata Knight Riders' purple and gold jersey this year after skipping the last season for CSK in the UAE. In an interview with news agency PTI, Harbhajan said that he is as combative at 40 as he was in his heydays and least bothered by the people questioning his willingness to carry on. He added that wants to now 'enjoy every moment of whatever cricket is left' in him. "Lot of people think 'Bhai yeh kyun khel

raha hain?' Arrey bhai yeh unki soch hai, meri naahi. Meri soch hai ki main abhi khel sakta hoon, toh main khelunga (People think 'why is he playing' but that's your opinion. From where I see myself, I want to play and I will play)," Harbhajan told PTI. "I have got nothing to prove to anyone. My intention is to play well, enjoy my stint out there in the middle and playing cricket still gives me that satisfaction. "I have set a standard for myself and if I don't meet that, I don't need anyone else but I will blame myself. I need to ask myself, did I put in the optimum effort that was required," he added. Harbhajan, who has more than 700 international wickets to

his credit, is pragmatic about how he approaches the game in his 23rd professional season, having made his Test debut in 1998. "Yes, I am not a 20-year-old anymore and won't be training like I did then. But yes, as a 40-year-old, I know I am fit and will certainly do what is required to succeed at this level. The expectation is still going to be there and responsibilities that were there when I was playing for India remains," he said. "Every season, I introspect if I have it in me to play or not. If I feel I am done, I will say, 'thank you, very much'. If I feel I am doing alright, you will see me next year," he said, signing off with a hearty laugh.

ICC rankings: Kohli stays on top of ODI rankings, Bumrah slips to fourth

Dubai, Mar 31: India captain Virat Kohli retained his top spot in the ICC rankings for ODI batsmen, while pacer Jasprit Bumrah slipped a place to fourth position in the bowler's list released on Wednesday. Kohli, who had scores of 56 and 66 in the first and second ODIs against England, has 870 points in his kitty. Bumrah, who was rested from white-ball series against England, slipped a place to fourth among bowlers and has 690 points. India limited overs vice-captain Rohit Sharma is ranked third,

behind Pakistan's Babar Azam, while KL Rahul has moved up from 31st to 27th spot. All-rounder Hardik Pandya has achieved a career-best 42nd position among batsmen after scores of 35 and 64, and Rishabh Pant has entered the top 100. Seam bowler Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who took three for 42 in the final match, has gained nine slots to reach the 11th position, which is his best since being 10th in September 2017. Shardul Thakur's haul of four for 67 in the same match has enabled



him to move up to 80th spot from 93rd. For England, all-rounder Ben Stokes has advanced four places to 24th, scoring 99 off 52 balls in the second ODI and is up to second among all-rounders, while Jonny Bairstow

has retained the seventh place after touching a career-high 796 rating points with his player of the match effort of 124 in the same match. Moeen Ali is up nine places to 46th among bowlers. In the T20 batting list, both Rahul and

Kohli have dropped a rung and are now placed fifth and sixth respectively. No other Indian featured in the top-10 among bowlers and all-rounders in the latest T20I rankings. In the Test rankings, spinner Ravichandran Ashwin retained his second spot behind Australia's Pat Cummins. In the all-rounders' list, Ravindra Jadeja is ranked third with Ashwin occupying the fourth spot. Kohli remained fifth among batsmen while swash-buckling wicketkeeper batsman Pant and Rohit shared the seventh spot.

India's Seema Punia competes in women's discus throw event

New Delhi, Mar 31: Over the past year, four-time Commonwealth Games medal-winning discus thrower Seema Punia has been through hell and back. The 37-year-old, who trains in Russia, tested positive for Covid, spent long hours in solitude and fought mental battles. But she never gave up though she was in a foreign land. The Haryana born athlete says she took solace in yoga, meditation and Osho's philosophy to pull through testing times. "It



can get very lonely and hard over there but I am searching for something greater. Language is a huge issue but I can understand now. I have picked up enough that I can move around the city without a translator. If you have to prove some-

thing you have to stay away from here and dirty politics," says Seema. Seema was in India earlier this month for the Federation Cup, her first competition in the country in over two years. She was favourite to bag the gold until Punjab's

Kamalpreet produced a record-breaking throw in excess of 65metres. Seema, although disappointed, accepted the second spot gracefully. The athlete feels it was a decent attempt, considering she was coming from a cold region like Krasnodar (southwestern Russia), one of her three training bases. "I am coming from a region where it is extremely cold so I consider my throw (62.64m) nothing less than a 65m throw," she says. "I felt like my head was spinning and had a

severe fever. I asked my trainer not to come to my room. It was a dreadful feeling. Like going through hell. Then health professionals arrived to take blood samples. The test proved I was positive," the athlete recalls. Getting back in shape felt like a herculean task for the athlete, who used to train a minimum of six hours a day before the virus hit her. "I would be left breathless after climbing a flight of stairs and there was this constant headache.

Pant leads DC: Why saddle the happiest kid on playground with responsibility?

New Delhi, Mar 31: There is certainly more than just a hint of sadism in seeking out the happiest kid on the playground and saddling him with the dourest of responsibilities. Leadership has, in the past, reduced the long and bleached mane of MS Dhoni into salt-and-pepper bristles and even turned the cherubic Sachin Tendulkar into a French beard-donning brood. What will captaincy do to the permagiggle of Rishabh Pant? Not only has he been

tasked with the reins of an IPL side at 23, that side happens to be Delhi Capitals - a team that hasn't won the tournament and only recently made their maiden final. Few in the long history of this sport has enjoyed his cricket more than wicketkeeper Pant, who is either squealing in delight or gurgling with anticipation or howling in mock horror (for missed run outs, mainly) or singing Bhojpuri versions of Spiderman songs or clapping his large rubber

gloves while gushing Tamil praises at R Ashwin ("vera level vera level Ashley!") or simply keeping Rohit Sharma entertained in the slip cordon with his constant supply of theatrics. It will be a thing of pity if the burden of leadership curbs Pant's exuberance behind the stumps. But the real shame will be if captaincy limits his devil-may-care attitude when stood in front of the stumps. In fact, and quite pertinently, after Pant's counterattacking hun-

dred for the ages in last Test in Ahmedabad against England, Rohit even warned the young man to leave the "thinking" to everyone else. "We actually don't want you to think too much," Rohit said to a chuckling Pant in a

view. "We will think there are others to do lots of thinking. You just play your natural game and enjoy yourself." Pant nodded along with a sheepish smile, but evidently his IPL franchise wasn't listening. It's not like Delhi Capitals were out of options in Shreyas Iyer's season-



long absence either. In new recruit Steve Smith they have a man who has led Rising Pune Super-giant all the way to the final in a season where he was forced to take over midway from Dhoni, no less. Then there are the old hands in Ajinkya Rahane (who has led Rajasthan Royals) and R Ashwin (who has the experience of captaining Kings XI Punjab and oozes with strategy and leadership vibes). But for better or worse, they went with Pant, who was

anointed captain of Delhi's first-class side in the 2017-18 season and ended up leading them all the way to the Ranji Trophy final, only to have the proverbial armband snatched away a week later. At least for now, however, Pant is bound to view his new role with a sense of achievement. When the previous IPL ended in late 2020, his career was in shambles. His lack of runs saw him dropped from both the short format squads to Australia and

Wriddhiman Saha squeezed his way into the eleven for the first Test in Adelaide too. But in the space of just four months and before the 2021 edition of the IPL, Pant turned it all around. And of all of India's success against Australia and England across all three formats, the return of Pant is perhaps the most satisfying for the health of Indian cricket. If his first taste of leadership in the IPL only adds to his joy, then it cannot be too bad a thing.

13 Pairs Of Special Trains To Be Augmented With Additional Coaches To Clear Waitlist Passengers

(A.O. Bureau)
New Delhi, Mar 31: To clear the waiting list of passengers in different Special trains originating from East Coast Railway jurisdiction, it has been decided to augment additional coaches, temporarily in 13 pairs of special trains in the month of April, 2021, as per the following. 08449/08450 Puri-Patna-Puri Special from Puri between 5th to 26th April, 2021 and from Patna between 7th to 28th April, 2021 will be augmented with One AC-3 Tier Coach. 02859/02860 Puri-Chennai Central-Puri Special from Puri between 4th to 25th April, 2021 and from Chennai Central between 5th to 26th April, 2021 will be augmented with One Sleeper Class Coach. 08425/08426 Puri-Durg-Puri Special from Puri between 1st to 30th April, 2021 and from Durg between 2nd April to 1st May, 2021 will be augmented with One Sleeper Class



Coach. 02088/02087 Puri-Howrah-Puri Special from Puri between 1st to 30th April, 2021 and from Howrah between 2nd April to 1st May, 2021 will be augmented with One AC Chair Car Coach. 02074/02073 Bhubaneswar-Howrah-Bhubaneswar Jan Shatabdi Special from both the directions between 1st April to 30th April, 2021 will be augmented with One Chair Car Coach. 02857/02858 Visakhapatnam-LTT-Visakhapatnam

Special from Visakhapatnam between 4th to 25th April, 2021 and from Mumbai LTT between 6th to 27th April, 2021 will be augmented with One Sleeper Class Coach. 08501/08502 Visakhapatnam-Gandhidham-Visakhapatnam Special from Visakhapatnam between 1th to 29th April, 2021 and from Gandhidham between 4th April to 2nd May, 2021 will be augmented with One Sleeper Class Coach. 02831/02832

Visakhapatnam-Lingampalli-Visakhapatnam Special from Visakhapatnam between 1th to 30th April, 2021 and from Lingampalli between 2nd April to 1st May, 2021 will be augmented with One Chair Car Coach. 08311/08312 Sambalpur-Manduadih-Sambalpur Special from Sambalpur between 4th to 28th April, 2021 and from Manduadih between 5th to 29th April, 2021 will be augmented with One AC 3 Tier Coach.

08306/08305 Sambalpur-Howrah-Sambalpur Special from Sambalpur between 2nd to 30th April and from Howrah between 3rd April to 1st May, 2021 will be augmented with One AC 3 Tier Coach. 08301/08302 Sambalpur-Rayagada-Sambalpur Special from Sambalpur from both the directions between 1st to 30th April will be augmented with Two Second Class Seating and One Chair Car Coach. 02085/02086 Sambalpur-Nanded-Sambalpur Special from Sambalpur between 2nd to 30th April and from Nanded between 3rd April to 1st May, 2021 will be augmented with One AC 3 Tier Coach. 08561/08562 Visakhapatnam-Kacheguda-Visakhapatnam Special from Visakhapatnam between 5th to 30th April, 2021 and from Kacheguda between 6th April to 1st May, 2021 will be augmented with One AC 3 Tier Coach.

JSPL remembers Shri OP Jindal on his Punyatithi

(A.O. Bureau)
Angul, 31st March: Jindal Steel and Power Ltd. (JSPL) observed the 16th Punyatithi of its founder Shri Om Prakash Jindal (Bauji) with a special prayer and various charitable activities today at Angul. In a programme held at Devbhoomi Temple, Employees of JSPL led by Mr Hridayeshwar Jha, Executive Director of the Angul unit, Mr Damodar Mittal, Mr Ravi Shankar, Mr S.K. Sharma and various other department heads, members of Jindal Mahila Samiti (JMS) and local community member paid their floral tribute to the visionary, following COVID-19 protocols. On this occasion, JSPL Foundation, the Social Arm of JSPL and the members of JMS visited local old age homes and Rehabilitation Centre at Angul and distributed food grain and

honoured him with the prestigious "Life Time Achievement Award" for his outstanding contribution to the Indian Steel Industry. He demonstrated his sensitivity to address the contemporary concerns of Indian society and people through active participation in public life as a social worker and politician. He was a member both in the State Legislature of Haryana and in our Nation's Parliament and meaningfully contributed to welfare of the public. He had also served as the Minister of Power in the Government of Haryana. As a social worker, he was instrumental in setting up and managing various schools, hospitals and other social institutions. Employees of JSPL's Bhubaneswar Office also paid their homage to the Founder of the Group. In his tribute to the Founder Mr



clothes to the inhabitants. With indomitable will and perseverance, Shri O.P. Jindal who belonged, a farmer's son, achieved stellar success both in business and social life. With a vision for self-reliant India and as a pioneering Indian entrepreneur, he had laid the foundation for O.P. Jindal Group, which is a leading business group in the Country. Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry had

Prashant Hota, President and Head of Bhubaneswar Office and Mr Hervinder Singh, President said that the genesis of 'Make in India' and Atmanirbhar Bharat can be traced back to the path-breaking contribution of Shri OP Jindal to the industrial development of India. JSPL Foundation also distributed food material among needy senior citizens and specially-abled children.

This Odisha Day, Tata Tea Premium Salutes the Kadak Spirit of Odisha



Partners with Sudarshan Pattnaik to create a Sand Art Installation #OdishaKeLiye capturing the symbols of pride of Odisha

Bhubaneswar, March 31st, 2021: On Utkal Dibas, Tata Tea Premium - Deshki Chai, pays a tribute to the state by creating an enormous Sand Art Installation in association with the renowned Padma Shri Indian Sand Artist, Sudarshan Pattnaik, and celebrates the glory and heritage of Odisha. While Odisha is known for its unique and diverse treasures, the people of Odisha are known for their resilience and have stood strong every time they been required to do so. Hence, the state that is known for its 'Kadak Irade' blends in well with the core proposition of TATA Tea Premium which offers a 'Kadak Spirited'

people of Odisha. With this insight, the Sand Artwork will capture the 'Kadak' spirit of the people of Odisha and bring alive elements which are the symbols of pride for them. The Sand Art Installation gives a glimpse of various elements that has put Odisha on a global map with the lens of culture, monuments, landscape, and heritage. The huge Konark temple, Mukteswar Gate, Shanti Stupa, Odisi dancer in her gracious costume, the very famous Puri beach of the state, all bring out moments of joy for the people of the state. Speaking about the initiative, Puneet Das, Senior Vice President - Marketing, Packaged Beverages - India, Tata Consumer Products, said, "The

stunning architectures, history, dialects, vibrant art music and dance forms make Odisha truly unique and diverse. On Utkal Dibasa, we are honored to partner with Sudarshan Pattnaik, a world-renowned Indian Sand Artist and a Padma Shri holder who hails from Odisha, to pay a tribute to this culturally rich state and celebrate the 'kadak' spirit of people of this state." Last year, the brand came out with all new packaging designed especially for the region, capturing the essence of Odisha in its truest form. The re-launch of the product celebrated the pride of Odisha thereby showcasing elements that define the culture and emotions of the state in its entirety.

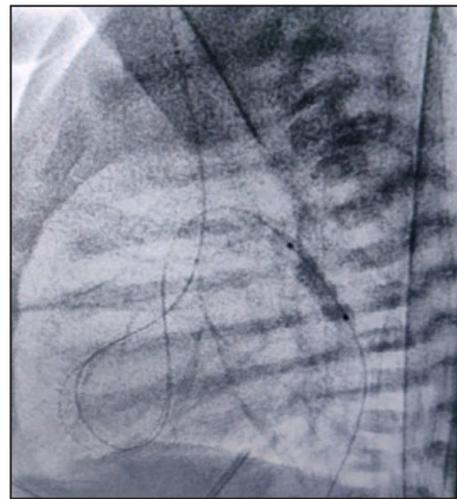
India records 0.2 pc current account deficit in December qtr

(A.O. Bureau)
Mumbai, Mar 31: India's current account deficit narrowed to USD 1.7 billion or 0.2 per cent of the GDP in the Decem-

ber quarter as against USD 2.6 billion or 0.4 per cent of GDP in the year-ago period, according to Reserve Bank data released on Wednesday.

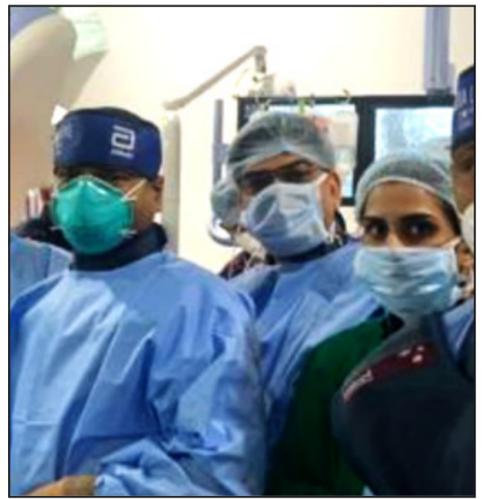
KIMS Cardiologist Breathes New Life into a 3 Days Old Baby

(A.O. Bureau)
Bhubaneswar, Mar 31: Doctors are otherwise regarded as God and that saying is not for nothing. A cardiologist at KIMS hospital in Bhubaneswar has done the wonder breathing a new life into a 3-day old baby conducting an operation who was suffering from heart-related ailments. Conducting an operation on a baby of just 3 days old and that too a surgical intervention into the heart is no mere task. This feat of achievement was done by a known cardiologist; Dr. Anupam Jena who did the operation on the baby whose blood vessels called the aorta was narrowing leading to further debilitation of the baby's heart. During the examination, Dr. Jena chanced upon the



problem and noticed the narrowing blood vessels which connect to the heart. The artery was narrow enough to obstruct the free flow of blood in it. It was quite a challenge and Dr. Jena realized the urgency of surgical intervention and did the wonder and now the baby is fit and fine.

It was a two hours long operation and Dr. Jena could achieve success with the competent assistance of all the members of KIMS Cath lab and the neonatal ICU team and Dr. Santosh Panda, Neonatologist. "Conducting such a complicated operation that too on a 3 days old



baby has never happened before. While such a rare surgery is first of its kind in Odisha, it is also an exemplary one in entire eastern India", said Dr. Jena. However, because of the adequate state-of-the-art equipment and infrastructure as well as the Life Support

System readily available at KIMS, such an operation could be possible, Dr. Jena added. Knowing about the successful operation, Founder Dr. Achyuta Samanta has expressed his pleasure and congratulated Dr. Anupam Jena & team while wishing quick recuperation of the baby.

Sensex tanks 627 pts; Nifty ends below 14,700

Mumbai, Mar 31: Equity benchmark Sensex tanked 627 points on Wednesday, dragged by losses in index majors HDFC twins, Reliance Industries and Infosys amid a negative trend in global markets. The 30-share BSE index ended 627.43 points or 1.25 per cent lower at 49,509.15, and the broader NSE Nifty slumped 154.40 points or 1.04 per cent to 14,690.70. The HDFC duo was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, shedding nearly 4 per cent, followed by

PowerGrid, Tech Mahindra, ICICI Bank, ONGC, Kotak Bank, Asian Paints, Infosys and Reliance Industries. On the other hand, ITC, Bajaj Finserv, HUL, SBI and TCS were among the gainers. "Domestic equities traded lower as concerns pertaining to spike in COVID-19 cases and resultant restrictions continued to weigh on investors' sentiments," said Binod Modi, Head - Strategy at Reliance Securities. Further, rise in US treasury yields and strengthening dollar index aggravated con-

cerns, he added. Financials, especially private banks, witnessed heavy profit booking, which along with selling pressure in IT stocks dragged benchmarks. However, investors continue to lap up FMCG metals and pharma names. Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Seoul and Tokyo ended in the red. Stock exchanges in Europe were also trading on a negative note in mid-session deals. Meanwhile, the global oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.58 per cent lower at USD 63.80 per barrel.